Forum Purpose

To improve the quality, comparability, and usefulness of elementary and secondary education data while remaining sensitive to data burden concerns.

Forum Mission

To plan, recommend, and develop education data resources that support local, state, and national efforts to improve prekindergarten through secondary education throughout the United States. The Forum identifies best practices, addresses challenges, develops resources, and considers new approaches to maximizing data quality and use, all while remaining sensitive to privacy concerns and administrative burden.

Forum Goals

• Improve the quality of education data.

• Identify information management best practices related to current education topics and emerging trends.

• Promote the Forum and its tools as leading best practices.

Forum Membership

Forum members include approximately 120 representatives from local and state education agencies, federal agencies, and other national organizations with an interest in elementary and secondary education data.

Access Forum Resources Today

You can download and print resources at no cost from the Forum's website at *http://nces.ed.gov/forum*.

Forum Guide to Data Governance

Forum Guide to Early Warning Systems

Forum Guide to Education Data Privacy

Forum Guide to Cybersecurity

National Forum on Education Statistics

Dedicated to the Needs of the Education Data Community

Established in 1989 by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) at the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, the Forum is designed to meet the needs of practitioners in federal, state, and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs). Forum members collaborate to develop free resources on education data issues that are tailored to the priorities and interests of data leaders in these agencies. These resources include best practice guides, online courses, videos, printable templates for data tasks, and the School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) course classification system. In addition to their contributions to Forum materials, members share information widely within their organizations. Many members give presentations on Forum products within their agencies and at conferences, and they use Forum products within their agencies to reduce the burden of developing resources independently.

Offering Diverse Perspectives and Expertise

The Forum provides an arena for local, state, and national leaders in the education data community to discuss issues, address problems, develop resources, and consider new approaches to improving data collection and utility. Forum members regularly meet to discuss timely topics, such as data collection during and after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and to hear from speakers on key issues like cybersecurity, data privacy, and federal data collections. Members also collaborate with a wide network of experts and frequently work in partnership with organizations such as the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Grant Program (SLDS), and the Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC).